



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park
(A part of Waterton-
Glacier
International Peace Park)

P.O. Box 128
West Glacier, MT 59936
www.nps.gov/glac/home.htm

406 888-7800 phone
406 888-7808 fax

Glacier National Park News Release

June 13, 2002
For Immediate Release
Amy Vanderbilt 406 888-7906
NEWS02-28

Park Operations Returning to Normal; Many Glacier Hotel to Open Friday *Sun Road plowing resumes while monitoring continues for potential flooding*

WEST GLACIER, MONT. – Warm, summer-like weather has returned to most east side areas of Glacier National Park, hit by an unseasonable snow storm last weekend. Pete Hart, interim superintendent at Glacier stated, “Thanks to a tremendous effort by personnel from all over the park, facilities and services are returning to normal operations after the storm dropped several feet of snow in the mountains and along the park’s east side last weekend. With the resumption of summer like weather,” commented Hart; “visitors are encouraged to maintain their plans to visit northwest Montana and Glacier National Park.”

Electrical power was restored at Many Glacier Valley Tuesday evening around 9 p.m. That, in combination with a lot of hard work by Glacier Park, Inc. employees, will help ensure that the Many Glacier Hotel opens for the season on schedule Friday, June 14. The Swiftcurrent Motor Inn and portions of the Many Glacier Campground remain open. The Rising Sun Motor Inn, campstore and restaurant all remain open as well, however, the Rising Sun Campground will reopen Friday, June 14. Portions of the St. Mary Campground may reopen for the weekend.

Other east side services and facilities have resumed normal operation as snow melts. The Two Medicine Valley is now open for day use with no services. Visitor services including the historic Two Medicine Campstore and the NPS campground will reopen for use as soon as conditions permit. The Cutbank Campground is snow covered and closed at this time, but will reopen as soon as conditions improve.

East of the Divide, the Going-to-the-Sun (Sun) Road has reopened for vehicle traffic to Jackson Glacier Overlook, a distance of 14 miles from St. Mary. Hikers and bikers can travel an additional two miles to Siyeh Bend. On the Sun Road’s west side, visitors may drive to Avalanche Creek, a distance of 16 miles from West Glacier. Bicyclists and pedestrians may travel several miles beyond Avalanche Creek toward the “Loop.”

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

- more -

Rehabilitation work on the historic rock wall at the Loop continues, therefore vehicle traffic is restricted at Avalanche Creek until the entire Sun Road opens over Logan Pass. Because of potential hazards from rock fall and avalanches, all use is restricted beyond posted signs on the Sun Road.


The east side road crew continued plowing and widening the Chief Mountain Road today (Thursday). That roadway received approximately four feet of snow during the storm. Electrical power has not yet been restored at both the U.S. and Canadian Customs Station, but plans are being developed to reopen the port at Chief Mountain on Monday, June 17.

East of the Divide, as a result of the heavy, wet snow, a massive slab avalanche slid onto the Sun Road just above the Siyeh Bend area. Reportedly the largest avalanche ever seen by veteran road crew members, the extensive avalanche debris is estimated to be approximately one-eighth to one-quarter of a mile long and 20-30 feet deep. "As always," said Hart, "crew safety is the first priority while progress is being made."

On Wednesday, while clearing debris from the lower stretch of the Sun Road near the Loop, the west side road crew counted a total of 72 avalanches, some of which reached the road. According to Hart, in order to facilitate plowing progress, the National Park Service has authorized an extended plowing work schedule that goes into effect Monday, June 17.

Virtually all west side services and facilities within the park are open at this time. In the remote northwest portion of the park, recent reports indicate there is approximately 12 inches of standing water in places on the Inside North Fork Road to Kintla Lake. The roadway is open, however, travel on the northern most portion of road is currently not recommended by vehicles with low clearance. The Inside North Fork Road is also open for vehicle use south of the Polebridge Ranger Station to Logging Creek. The southern portion of the Inside North Fork Road between Logging Creek and Fish Creek Campground is open for hiking and bicycling; however, users should be alert for trees on the road.

Non-motorized use is welcome on any park roads that are otherwise closed to motor vehicles, but users are reminded to be alert for snow, ice, and rock fall as well as for bears and other wildlife. Bicyclists and hikers are asked to stay on the right side of the roadway. Visitors are also reminded that when sections of park roads are closed to motorized vehicle use, and are utilized as trails, they are closed to all pets.



Reservations for lodging, transportation, tours and other recreational services should be made by contacting respective concessioners. To link to park concessioners, visit the park's official web site (www.nps.gov/glac/home.htm).

- more -

Privately owned facilities at Apgar Village are also open for lodging, camping supplies, groceries, and gifts. Lodging, dining and other visitor services are also available in gateway communities adjacent to the park.

Continued forecasts for temperatures in the 80's could still cause localized flooding, thus park managers continue to monitor stream and river levels throughout the park and updates will be provided as necessary.

Plowing progress and subsequent road openings are contingent on many factors such as weather and visibility, snowpack, ice, avalanches, rock fall and slides, possible flooding and overall road conditions, and equipment reliability. Plowing updates and road conditions are available on the park's web site (www.nps.gov/glac/whatsnew/gttsroad.htm) or by calling park headquarters at 406-888-7800. Updates will be provided as necessary.

- NPS -